

...and Supervising the C.I.A.

Continuing Congressional distrust of the Central Intelligence Agency has been most recently reflected in the resolutions submitted by Senators McCarthy and Young. The former proposes a Senate investigation of the C.I.A.'s impact on United States foreign relations, while the latter advocates a Senate-House "watchdog" committee on the C.I.A. analogous to the Joint Committee on Atomic Energy.

The demand for closer Congressional control of the C.I.A. arises not only from the spectacular fiascoes in which it has been involved during the last few years but even more particularly from charges that the C.I.A. sometimes goes beyond the gathering and evaluating of intelligence to the actual formation of policy affecting foreign relations.

Intelligence agencies traditionally oppose legislative supervision for fear of compromising the secrecy their work requires. But we have felt—and said—for years that the Congressional reins have been far too lightly held, the existing means of control so inadequate as to be almost useless. We still believe the C.I.A. and the rest of the intelligence community would benefit by creation of a permanent joint Congressional watchdog committee over the entire national intelligence effort.

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